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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Owens-Corning from Albert Baumgardner
RE Asbestosis

DRAFT

November 21, 1944

Mr. Edward C. Ames
Public Relations Manager
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation
Nicholas Building
Toledo 1, Ohio

Dear Mr. Ames:

Mr. Albert Baumgardner of Holland, Ohio, has been a patient of mine for many years. He is approximately 55 years old, and during most of his adult life he has been a pipe coverer handling magnesite, asbestos and mineral wool products on industrial insulation jobs in and about Toledo.

During August 1944 he was under my care, and I hospitalized him in Mercy Hospital, Toledo. He was suffering from asbestosis, a condition that results from exposure to asbestos dust. The disease is a well recognized form of lung pathology that manifests itself in a diminution of lung capacity resulting in dyspnoea, or shortness of breath. This diagnosis is made through the use of X-rays, which were forwarded to me from an Akron hospital where Mr. Baumgardner had been treated some time before. His condition was complicated by a heart ailment which led me to advise him to leave his trade and seek work that was sedentary in nature so that he would not exert himself in such a manner that his heart would be unduly strained.

In my opinion his lung condition was not the result of exposure to Fiberglas materials, which he had been handling for a relatively short time before he left his trade. It is to be explained, rather, by his exposure to asbestos dust over a long period of years.

It is well established by the work of Dr. Leroy U. Gardner at Sarnac and others that exposure to glass fibers involves no hazard to the lungs.

Yours very truly,

November 22, 1944

Zone 1

Dr. A. E. Canfield
827 Junction Avenue
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Dr. Canfield:

Recently we were informed by the Industrial Insulation Co., 1506 Erie Street, Toledo, that a member of the insulating crew employed by that company had left his trade because of bad health and had sought employment elsewhere. The man is Albert Baumgardner of Holland, Ohio.

We understand Mr. Baumgardner was a patient of yours, and for that reason we think you may be interested in a further report that has reached us about this case. The report may be entirely hearsay, but we were told that there were statements made that Mr. Baumgardner believed his physical condition was due to his having handled Fiberglas insulation material on several jobs prior to his leaving his trade.

Naturally we are always anxious to clarify any mis-conceptions, and if there were a possibility of health hazard we would be very much concerned. Our experience with thousands of employees in daily contact for many years with Fiberglas has demonstrated that there are no ill effects from such exposure. We are wondering to what extent you can help clarify this situation, and if you can say whether contact with Fiberglas materials played any part in Mr. Baumgardner's condition.

Very truly yours,

Public Relations Manager

Edward C. Ames
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